

REMARKS

The Office Action of November 5, 2002 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Claims 1 - 31 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 1 - 31 are subject to restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121. The restriction is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action notes that claims 1 - 11 and 17 - 31 are drawn to a connector/contact, classified in class 439, subclass 394 while claims 12 - 16 are drawn to a method of assembling, classified in class 29. The Office Action further states that the inventions are distinct because they are related as process of making and product made and that the product as claimed can be made by a different process such as terminating the cable to the contact and then inserting both together into the housing. (See Office Action, page 2)

Applicants respectfully disagree with the examiner's characterization of the relationship between the claim sets and the assessment of their relationship. First, the claims 12 - 16 are not directed to a process of making the connector/contact of claims 1 - 11 and 17 - 31, respectively but for a method of mounting a connector to a coaxial cable. As such, the claim sets, as defined by the examiner are not related as a process of making and a product made. Second, as claims 12 - 16 are not related to a process for making the product of claims 1 - 11 or 17 - 31 in the first place, the examiner's assessment that the product "can be made by a different process" is misplaced. Furthermore, the examiner's suggestion that "terminating the cable to the [inner] contact and then inserting both together into the housing" is confusing as this is process is covered by claim 12.

In light of the relationship of the claim sets, it does not appear that there would be a serious burden on the examiner to examiner all of the presently pending claims.

Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group I for examination.

The Office Action also asserts that the application contains claims directed to patentably distinct species of the invention claimed in claims 1 -

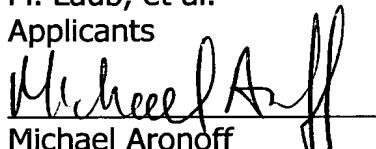
31, specifically species 1: Figures 1 - 11, species 2: Figures 12 - 16, species 3: Figures 17 - 19, species 4: Figures 20 - 26, species 5: Figure 27, and species 6: Figures 28 - 29. The examiner has requested that the Applicants elect one of these species for examination. The examiner has, however, not noted that any claims are generic. It is Applicants belief that at least claims 1, 12, 17, and 27 are generic. In light of the objection to the restriction requirement, as noted above, Applicants provisionally elect species 3. Applicants presently believe that claims 1 - 31 read on species 3.

If the examiner has any questions regarding the presently pending claims which could be easily resolved by a telephone conference, the examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' representative at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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